**Advent Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting – October 20, 2021 Minutes**

**Present – Voting (n=10)**: Pastor Danielle Miller, Damaris Maclean, Hans Kriefall, Laura O’Keefe, Dorothy Trigg, Bree Vandenberg, Deanne Walters, Juan Minier, Kika Wright, Michael Hammett

**Present – Not Voting** **(n=0):**

**Not Present – Excused** **(n=0):**

1. **Pastor’s Report & Financial Report**

We reviewed individually and discussed questions:

What is the goal of the Stewardship phone tree? The plan is to recommend setting up automatic giving in order to help make giving easier for pledgers and Advent, and provide assistance to those who need it. Hopefully it will also serve as a subtle reminder about outstanding pledges.

The budget is currently in surplus, do we expect that to be the case at year end? Giving is a bit behind (at 63% instead of 75%), and expenses are further behind (55% instead of 75%), so do we think those trends will continue? Yes we do because the lower expenses are mostly due to staff changes and savings on salaries, and there are not expected further changes until 2022. We also have more space sharing in 2021 than anticipated, so that’s a help to expenses.

Madelyn Soussoudis has resigned as Treasurer. Deanne Walters will act as Treasurer while Council searches for a replacement. Thank you to Madelyn for your time and service this year.

1. **Update on Sergio**

A synod fund had agreed to fund his monthly stipend, but then forgot to include the stipend in their annual budget. They can rectify this starting in 2022, so in order to have Sergio start on Nov 15 as scheduled, we would need to front $4802 for the stipend to be paid back in 2022 when the funding renews.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to approve this loan to allow Sergio to start on Nov 15 as scheduled.

1. **Building Committee Recommendation**

Laura shared the recommendation from the building committee to move forward with Richard McElhiney Architects LLC to handle the basement renovation project. This is the architect firm who helped with the previous Master Plan, which gives them a jump start since they have familiarity with the building already. This would make their work more efficient/cost effective, and the firm also has more church experience than the other interviewed. The recommendation also noted that will we need to be very clear that the #1 priority is getting the building up to code, and any money leftover to do more is great, in order to focus the work needed.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to confirm the building committee’s recommendation of Richard McElhiney Architects LLC.

Thank you to the building committee for their work & research in this process!

1. **Budget Committee**

The Budget Committee usually starts work in November. The committee is typically composed of the Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer, Pastor, Council President, and someone from the Personnel Committee. It was also recommended to include someone from the Finance/Investment Committee. Hans Kreifall will follow-up with the Personnel Committee to choose a representative, and Pastor Danielle will ask someone from the Finance/Investment Committee.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council voted to affirm the makeup structure of this committee.

1. **Future Discussion**: What is the new normal? We will review articles shared by Pastor Danielle about changes in church practices and success measurement and be prepared for larger discussion in our next meeting of national church trends and what a “comeback” should look like vs comparing to previous pre-pandemic years.
2. **Next Meeting**
The next Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (or in person). Bree will close us in prayer.

**Adjournment — Closing Prayer**

Dorothy Trigg closed the meeting in prayer.

*Respectfully submitted by D.Trigg 10/20/21*